

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01 L-03

DRC-01 /089 W

----- 116047

R 041440Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5090

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 346

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCI, JO, IS

SUBJECT: REPORTED VATICAN MEETING ABOUT JERUSALEM

REF: ROME 2853

1. APOSTOLIC DELEGATE LAGHI TELLS US THAT ONLY CHURCH MEETING OF THE KIND TO BE HELD IN ROME THIS MONTH IS ONE OF SERIES OF SESSIONS OF COMMISSION TO REVISE CANON LAW FOR CATHOLIC ORIENTAL CHURCHES. COMMISSION WILL MEET MARCH 18. HEADS OF CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN MIDDLE EAST WILL ATTEND, INCLUDING ABOUT FIVE CATHOLIC (NOT ORTHODOX) PATRIARCHS. LAGHI SAID COMMISSION HAD BEEN MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT FOR MANY YEARS AND THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF JERUSALEM BEING TAKEN UP OTHER THAN IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS.

2. LAGHI WAS IN SOME DESPAIR OVER STATEMENT BY IRREPRESSIBLE HEAD OF GREEK CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL, ARCHBISHOP RAYA, THAT HE WAS STAYING AWAY FROM "FORTHCOMING VATICAN CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS OF HIS CHURCH" BECAUSE HE BELIEVED ISSUE OF JERUSALEM SHOULD NOT BE RAISED IN SUCH FORUM. MARCH 4 JERUSALEM POST
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CARRIED THIS STATEMENT. ACCORDING TO POST ARTICLE, RYA WAS

REFERRING TO SAME MARCH 18 CONFERENCE. LAGHI NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT RAYA WAS NOT MEMBER OF COMMISSION AND WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND IN ANY CASE. HE WAS INCLINED TO ATTRIBUTE STATEMENT TO RAYA'S INSTINCT FOR HEADLINES.

3. COMMENT: IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT GATHERING OF BISHOPS AND PATRIARCHS FROM MIDDLE EAST, IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WOULD LEAD TO RUMORS ABOUT DISCUSSION ON JERUSALEM. IT WOULD ALSO NOT BE SURPRISING IF THERE WERE DISCUSSIONS WITH VATICAN OFFICIALS, OUTSIDE CONFINES OF CONFERENCES, ABOUT JERUSALEM.

DAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MOSLEMS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JERUSA00346
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740371/aaaacnud.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ROME 2853
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED VATICAN MEETING ABOUT JERUSALEM
TAGS: SOCI, JO, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005